



HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA ALERT

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: 04.26.2005

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EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ALERTS CITIZENS

- WHAT:** Press Conference to discuss HFD's recent use of a new warning notification system.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, April 27, 2005 at 2:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** HFD Logistics (front of building)
1205 Dart Street off Houston Ave.
- DETAILS:** Neighborhood Early Warning System or NEWS is a new telephone warning system that the City of Houston can utilize to warn their citizens about dangerous situations. It is a targeted notification system that allows a specific area to be called for rapid calling and delivery of messages – such as a shelter in place notice. The system is offered by the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network (GHC 9-1-1) to all jurisdictions within Harris and Fort Bend Counties.

Recently, the system was used by HFD officials following a three-alarm fire at the Superior Packaging and Distribution plant which contained a variety of dangerous chemicals. A shelter in place warning was given to nearby residents at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Sunday evening.